

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

COME-00 EB-07 LAB-04 SIL-01 /068 W

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R 222140Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1991

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUENOS AIRES 4922

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, PINT, ELAB, AR

SUBJECT: LOPEZ REGA'S DEPARTURE

REF: BA 4837

1. JULY 20 ARTICLE IN LA OPINION DETAILS MANY OF THE CIRCUMSTANCES LEADING UP TO LOPEZ REGA'S ABRUPT DEPARTURE FROM THE COUNTRY. ACCORDING TO EMBASSY SOURCES, THE STORY WAS LEAKED TO LA OPINION BY ONE OF THE CABINET MINISTERS INVOLVED IN FINAL EFFORTS TO OUST LOPEZ REGA.

2. ACCORDING TO LA OPINION ACCOUNT, INTERIOR MINISTER BENITEZ ATTEMPTED TO SEE MRS. PERON ON MORNING OF JULY 18. HE WAS DENIED ACCESS TO MRS. PERON AND GIVEN TO UNDERSTAND THAT LOPEZ REGA WAS SCREENING THE PRESIDENT'S VISITORS. AFTER LEAVING OLIVOS BENITEZ INFORMED NEW DEF MIN GARRIDO THAT LOPEZ REGA HAD DENIED HIM ACCESS TO MRS. PERON. GARRIDO IN TURN MET WITH THE THREE MILITARY CINCS AND INFORMED THEM OF THE SITUATION AT OLIVOS. SHORTLY THEREAFTER COL. JORGE SOSA MOLINA, COMMANDER OF THE PRESIDENTIAL GUARD (SAN MARTIN GRENADIER CAVALRY REGIMENT) WENT TO OLIVOS AND ASSUMED RESPONSIBILITY FOR PRESIDENT'S SECURITY. IN THIS CAPACITY, HE ORDERED THAT ALL OF THE POLICE AND PRIVATE BODYGUARDS ON THE ESTATE BE DISARMED. FOLLOWING THIS ACTION, SOSA MILINA LET IT BE KNOWN THAT ALL

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CABINET MINISTERS COULD HAVE ACCEES TO THE PRESIDENT.

3. AT 6:30 PM A CABINET MEETING WAS HELD AT OLIVOS. GARRIDO INFORMED MRS. PERON THAT THE MILITARY WAS DEMANDING AN IMMEDIATE END TO THE INFLUENCE OF LOPEZ REGA AND HIS SUPPORTERS. MRS. PERON RESPONDED EMOTIONALLY TO GARRIDO'S STATEMENT, DECLARING THAT AS PRESIDENT SHE HAD THE RIGHT TO CHOOSE HER ADVISORS AS SHE SAW FIT. AFTER SEVERAL SHARP EXCHANGES BETWEEN MRS. PERON AND GARRIDO, JUSTICE MINISTER CORVALAN NANCLARES TOLD MRS. PERON THAT LABOR SHARED THE VIEWS OF THE MILITARY.

4. FOLLOWING THE JUSTICE MINISTER'S STATEMENT, MRS. PERON REQUESTED TIME TO THINK THE SITUATION OVER. THIS, HOWEVER, WAS NOT ACCEPTABLE TO THE CINCS WHO FEARED SOME LAST ACT OF DESPERATION BY LOPEZ REGA. THEY DEMANDED THAT LOPEZ REGA LEAVE IMMEDIATELY. DEPRIVED OF CONTROL OVER OLIVOS AND HIS PERSONAL BODYGUARDS AND KNOWING THAT DEMANDS FOR HIS ARREST FOR TRIAL WERE RISING, LOPEZ REGA DECIDED TO LEAVE ARGENTINA.

5. EMBASSY POLITICAL SOURCES REPORT THAT UNTIL FRIDAY, JULY 18, THE MILITARY ALONG WITH OTHER SECTORS HAD PLANNED TO USE THE JULY 21 MEETING BETWEEN MRS. PERON AND LABOR LEADERS TO FORCE THE LOPEZ REGA ISSUE. HOWEVER, WHEN BENITEZ NOT ALLOWED TO SEE THE PRESIDENT THE MILITARY LOST ALL PATIENCE AND DECIDED TO FORCE ISSUE ON THEIR OWN. BENITEZ HAD BEEN CHOSEN TO FORCE LOPEZ REGA ISSUE WITHIN CABINET AND WITH KNOWLEDGE OF OTHER SECTORS HAD FLOATED STORY THAT MRS. PERON WOULD ASK FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE. THIS WAS ATTEMPT TO INCREASE PRESSURE ON HER LEADING UP TO SCHEDULED MEETING WITH LABOR LEADERS ON JULY 21. APPARENTLY FEARING LOPEZ REGA HAVING BLOCKED BENITEZ WOULD STALL ON MEETING WITH LABOR, THE MILITARY ACTED.

6. MOVE BY CINCS WHO HAD CLOSELY COORDINATED WITH OTHER SECTORS, CAME AS A SURPRISE TO BOTH LABOR AND POLITICAL OPPONENTS OF LOPEZ REGA. HOWEVER, THEY HAVE NOT VOICED ANY DISPLEASURE WITH THE MILITARY'S CONFIDENTIAL

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MOVE.
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Message Attributes

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